THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir, automotive diesel engines used in passenger cars and Multi Utility Vehicles are meeting Bharat Stage-II (Euro-II equivalent) emission norms in Delhi from April, 2000 and commercial vehicles in all metros for city operations from October, 2001.

(c) and (d) The technology in Germany is designed to meet Euro III emission norms being introduced in Europe for different categories of diesel vehicles while the same are expected to be introduced in seven mega cities in India from 2005.

Accumulated loss of HMT

2191. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the accumulated losses of HMT, so far;

(b) whether Government have any financial package for the HMT; and

(c) whether Government propose to introduce Voluntary Retirement Scheme in the HMT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) The accumulated losses of HMT as on 31st March, 2001 are Rs. 379 crore.

(b) For HMT Limited a revival plan was approved in July, 2000 consisting infusion of fresh equity of Rs. 250 crore for liquidation of debentures/dues of FIs and Banks and payment of outstanding statutory dues, equity of Rs. 15.10 crore for capital expenditure conversion of outstanding loan of Rs. 39.70 crore to equity and waiver of accumulated interest theron of Rs. 12.74 crore, guarantee for VRS bonds of Rs. 469 crore with 50% interest subsidy and waiver of guarantee fee, an additional guarantee for raising working capital bonds of Rs. 40.43 crore for its Watch Business Group and grant-in-aid to meet salary and wages for the employees of Srinagar watch factory for three years as per Audited Accounts.

(c) HMT has been operating Voluntary Retirement Scheme from time to time for reduction of surplus manpower. The revival plan envisaged reduction of manpower to an extent of 6947 during two years *i.e.* 2000-2001 and 2001-2002.

A total of 5123 employees have been separated from the Company under Voluntary Retirement Scheme, till date.

List of Journalists covering various News Media

2192. SHRI R. SARATH KUMAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have asked the State Government to provide with the list of journalists covering various news media and journalists in the States all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the methods deviced by Government to check and control the Spate of non-accredited journalists in the news reporting;

(d) the action taken against such journalists, State-wise; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) to (e) The Central Government places no restriction that coverage of news/reporting has to be by accredited journalists.

Facts and figures regarding cable operators

2193. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government would be able to provide the facts and figures regarding cable operators in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the revenue being collected as entertainment tax from cable operators in the country per annum ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) The statistics regarding the total number of registered cable operators in the country and the rates charged by them are not maintained by the Government. However, the Report on "Indian Media Sector", prepared by HSBC in October, 2000, estimates that there are 30,000 local cable operators in the country.